

# **SAFETY ALERT**

16 March 2009

## **Safety Alert: Salvia Divinorum**

1. PURPOSE. To provide leaders with basic information on Salvia Divinorum.

### **2. BACKGROUND.**

Salvia Divinorum has been marketed as a legal alternative to other drugs over the past few years. Its' use is on the rise in the United States and world-wide, especially among young men and women between the ages of 18 and 25, the age group that represents the majority of our Soldiers. It is widely available in the US through the Internet and in specialty shops. Salvia Divinorum can be smoked, inhaled, or ingested.

### **3. DISCUSSION.**

Salvia Divinorum is a member of the sage genus/mint family and is native to Mexico. Although it is not native to the US, it is used here as an ornamental plant in landscaping. It is also known as: Divine Mexican Mint, Diviner's Mint, Diviner's Sage, Divinorin, Divinorin A, Herb-of-the-Virgin, Herba de Maria, Hierba de la Virgen, Hojas de la Pastora, La Hembra, Leaves of the Virgin Shepherdess, Magic Mint, Mexican Sage, Mexican Sage Incense, Pipiltzintzintli, Sadi, Sally-D, Salvia, Salvinorin, Salvinorin A, Sage of the Seers, Ska Maria, Ska Maria Pastora, and Yerba de Maria.

Individuals use Salvia Divinorum primarily as a recreational drug to get high, alter consciousness, and to create a short-lasting state of euphoria. The onset of hallucinogenic activity occurs within 10 to 15 minutes when chewed and lasts about an hour. When inhaled, the effects occur within 1 minute and last about 30 minutes. Salvia Divinorum has no legitimate medical uses.

Possession and use of Salvia Divinorum is legal in most states in the US, but the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) is reviewing it for possible controlled substance regulation. It is illegal to consume Salvia in some states, including Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Nebraska (beginning September 2009), North Dakota, Ohio (beginning in April 2009), Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Virginia.

### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS.**

Signs for Salvia Divinorum use: slurred speech, confusion, paranoia, impaired coordination, mental slowness, dream-like state, euphoria, and hallucinations (perceptions of bright lights and vivid colors.) The nature and extent of Salvia use within a local military community should dictate the appropriate command response. If a problem is identified regarding use of Salvia within a particular command, commanders may elect to contact their legal advisors for issuance of local orders tailored to their circumstances.

5. POC for the above is the Army Center for Substance Abuse Programs at [www.acsap.army.mil](http://www.acsap.army.mil) or [prevtraingroup@acsap.army.mil](mailto:prevtraingroup@acsap.army.mil)

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